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DRAFT Desk Statement

Deschutes TMDL Partial Approval/Disapproval

Today, EPA has partially approved the Washington Department of Ecology's Deschutes Total Maximum Daily Load. This effort to address pollution issues in the Deschutes River is an important step towards meeting water quality goals in this watershed. While Ecology's effort to address water quality issues in the Deschutes River watershed has been sustained and comprehensive, there are parts of the TMDL EPA has disapproved and is going to amend.

Moving forward, EPA plans to coordinate closely with Ecology to ensure downstream impacts to Capitol Lake and Budd Inlet are more fully considered; additional information about pollutant loads is included; and that there is a stronger basis for achieving water quality standards for portions of the watershed.

We commit to working with Ecology to protect Washington's water quality and complete the TMDL.